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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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MARY JEAN CLEVELAND, EDITOR

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Cover Photo: The Green Mountains of Vermont, scenic and high, are now in danger. See story beginning on page 8. (Photo by Bob Hagerman.)

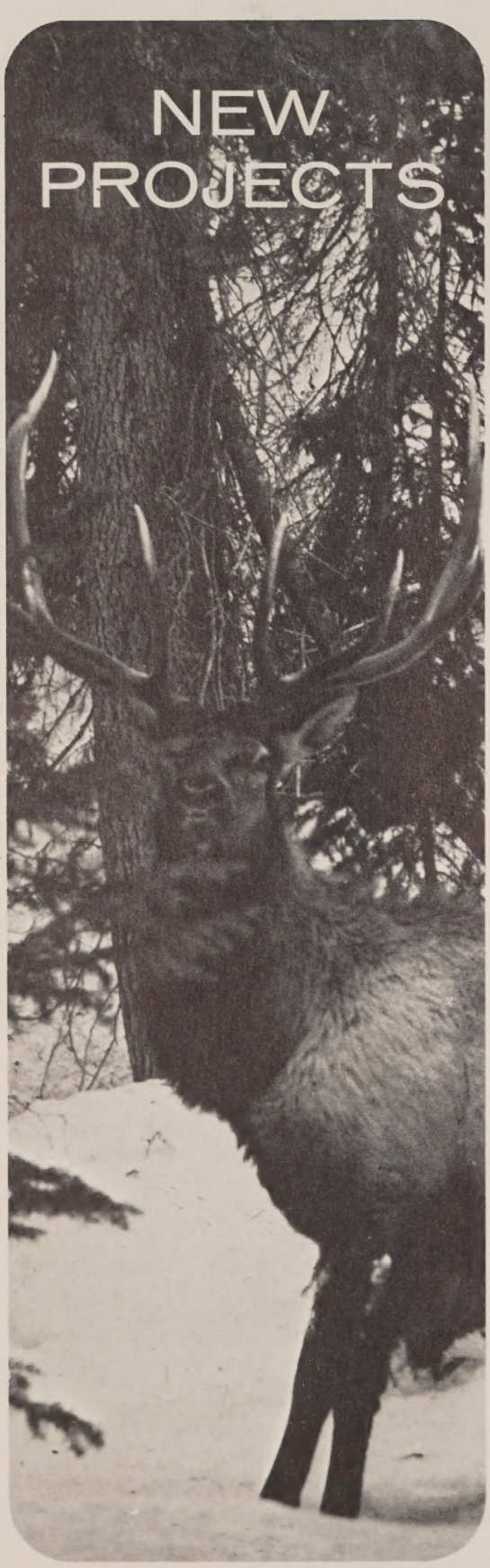
Inside Front Cover: Clausland Mountain, Rockland County, New York, is 450 acres of wooded mountain land used for nature study. (Photo by Clausland Mountain Project Committee.)

The Nature Conservancy is a member-governed organization, incorporated in the District of Columbia for non-profit educational and scientific purposes. The National Office is in Arlington, Virginia, and Regional Offices are located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Ohio, Arlington, Virginia, and San Francisco, California.

The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951. The Conservancy's first effort at land-saving was the Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County, New York, in 1954. This very successful endeavor turned out to be the forerunner of 450 projects in which the Conservancy has since been involved. These sanctuaries are located in 42 states and total over 200,000 acres.

The Nature Conservancy works closely not only with numerous scientific and conservation organizations but with municipal and state governments as well as the federal government.

The Nature Conservancy is the organization rallying the skills, the techniques, and the funds actually necessary to save land. Its total resources are massed for this one objective.



U. S. FOREST SERVICE

HOLT TIDELANDS—Addition—San Francisco Bay Project (San Francisco County, California). A gift of Mr. Parker M. Holt, this 3.3-acre parcel fronts on Candlestick Point in San Francisco Bay. The land provides an excellent example of the technique of "checkerboarding" used to prevent development. Holding the strategic area will help guarantee the integrity of tidal flow and waterfowl nesting habitat in this area of the Bay.

DEVIL'S DEN, located between the towns of Redding and Weston, Connecticut, includes most of the West Branch of the Saugatuck River watershed. Here, intermittent streams flow through high, rocky ledges and the thick oak-maple forest. A total of 1,371 acres have been donated by Miss Katharine Ordway since 1966, comprising the main body of the Den. The area is the Conservancy's first permanent research station: five papers dealing with the Den have been published by the Conservancy. See page 16. Devil's Den is perhaps the largest wild area remaining in southwestern Connecticut, and as such, has ever-increasing significance for research, for aesthetics and as a haven for large numbers of wildlife species. The acquisition of three additional key areas adjacent to the Den is presently in progress:

GREAT LEDGES—Addition A—The 18-acre area is located on the northern boundary of the Den and is characterized by high ledges of 90 to 100 feet, providing a scenic panorama of the low-lying Saugatuck Reservoir and the nearby towns of Weston and Easton. Funds to preserve the property are presently being sought.

GREAT LEDGES—Addition B—Acquisition of this 45-acre area, adjacent to Addition A, will substantially complete protection of the heavily-forested Great Ledges area. Fund raising is in progress.

SAUGATUCK WILDLIFE REFUGE (Fairfield County, Connecticut). Bordering Devil's Den on southwest, this 16-acre wetland had been threatened with development. The land is home to many species of duck and host to innumerable species of migratory waterfowl. The upland area edging the marsh is covered with a heavy stand of oak and maple. Efforts to raise funds for its purchase are in progress.

GREENWICH COVE MARSHES—Addition—(Fairfield County, Connecticut). Located in the town of Greenwich, the .3-acre parcel is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Curtis. The area is

T. SENNETT

typical Connecticut salt marsh around Greenwich Cove, and in combination with other parcels help protect the larger biotic community against future development through the "checkerboarding" method also used along San Francisco Bay.

SAM'S WOODS (Fairfield County, Connecticut). A gift of 1.3 acres from Mrs. Miriam Bell, the area is significant as a wooded enclave in a comparatively developed area. Cover is of white birch, hemlock, dogwood, mountain laurel and sugar maple.

WOLF PIT MOUNTAIN (Litchfield County, Connecticut). A woodland mountain, rising up to 700 feet above the Housatonic River, Wolf Pit is located in Bridgewater Township. The acquisition of the 56-acre mountain is considered a key in efforts to protect the Housatonic River Valley. Wolf Pit Mountain is a project of the Connecticut Chapter.

DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW PRESERVE (Brevard County, Florida). See page 7.

LIGNUMVITAE KEY (Monroe County, Flor-[illegible]). See pages 12, 17.

ROOKERY BAY—Addition—(Collier County, Florida). The Collier County Committee of The Nature Conservancy is presently raising funds for the purchase of 416 additional acres in Rookery Bay, to secure over a mile of the Bay's western shore and one-half its northern entrance as well as to reduce the pollution potential in the Bay. With the purchase, Conservancy-owned lands will total 851 acres. Consisting of a mangrove forest, salt marsh and highland, the Rookery Bay area is a paradise for birdwatching and an invaluable marine resource. The area is an important breeding site and nursery for many species of fish; among these are snook, redfish, trout, mullet, shrimp, oyster. Innumerable birds dependent upon the area are ospreys, herons, egrets, eagles, roseate spoonbills, bitterns and many species of songbirds.

THE HONORABLE THEODORE ROOSEVELT PRESERVE—Addition—(Duval County, Florida). The Conservancy is presently fund raising to acquire 24 acres of marsh and upland on the southeastern boundary of the Roosevelt preserve. The area, like 361 acres of marshland donated by Willie Browne in 1969, is wild and supports an abundant and varied number of wildlife species. The area will be used by the Jacksonville University for estuarine research.

CEDAR GLEN EAGLE ROOST (Hancock and Wilcox Counties, Illinois). One of two remaining major winter roosts for bald eagles on the Mississippi River in Illinois, this 182-acre area is a current project of the Illinois Chapter. An observer from the Illinois Natural History Survey has sighted as many as 100 eagles using the area. Gently rolling hills slant to rugged, rocky ravines, containing geodes of geologic interest. Most of the area is heavily forested with oak-hickory dominant, and black locust and osage orange in evidence. The property is adjacent the Alice L. Kibbe Life and Science Station of the University of Western Illinois, which will help oversee the area. Efforts to raise funds for the land's purchase are underway.

JUNIPER ISLAND (St. Louis, Minnesota). Dr. and Mrs. John Frankel are the donors of about 18 acres on 52-acre Juniper Island in Lake Vermilion. The shoreline property adjoins 25 acres of state-owned land which will remain in a natural state. Cover is a mixture of spruce and lebanon with some white cedar. Occasional red pine and white pine tower above the predominantly spruce and balsam forest on the island. Understory includes blueberry, wild rose, twin flower, bayberry and sweet gale. Numerous bird species inhabit or visit the island, including great blue herons, osprey, turkey vultures, gulls and loons.

KASOTA PRAIRIE (LeSeur County, Minnesota). Concerned that development would destroy this 38-acre tall grass prairie, the Minnesota Chapter has embarked on a fund-raising effort to preserve it. The prairie features an outstanding remnant of smooth bromegrass.

LICHEN GLADE (St. Clair County, Missouri). A sandstone outcropping forming a glade and bluff along Salt Creek, Lichen Glade was in danger of being developed. The 15-acre area lies in a transition zone between the Ozark Forest to the east and the prairie to the west. An unusual variety of brightly colored lichens covers the sandstone due to the seepage of water. Part of the property supports xeric plants and several unique species of snakes are found. The Missouri Chapter is presently raising funds for the preservation of the area.

ATLANTIC DOUBLE DUNES—Addition—(Suffolk County, New York.) A one-acre gift of Mr. and Mrs. Don Francisco, the property is part of an anticipated preserve stretching 2½ miles along the Long Island Coast. The area is considered one of the most valuable and unspoiled beach areas on Long Island.

THE HEMPSTEAD MARSHES (Suffolk County, New York). A 4-acre salt marsh tract on Accabonac Harbor, the area is a gift of Mrs. Eleanor Hempstead. The property is located between two marshland conservancies and is another link in a longer-range plan to preserve Accabonac Harbor.

FOREST RIVER COLONY (Grand Forks County, North Dakota). Comprising 1,440 acres in northeastern North Dakota, the area includes eight wetland marshes, of which three are shallow prairie potholes. The property is excellent prairie chicken habitat and its acquisition seeks to halt the bird's decline. Under the land's former owners, the Forest River Colony of Hutterite Brethren, the prairie chicken population revived somewhat. In addition the area attracts migrating shorebirds as well as mallards, pintails and coots. The preserve is part of the floor of glacial Lake Agassiz.

FRAME BOG (Portage County, Ohio). One of the few remaining sphagnum tamarack bogs still intact in northeastern Ohio is found on this 72-acre area. Seeking to prevent the loss of the property to development, the Ohio Chapter is presently raising funds for its purchase. The bog containing bayberry, shrubby cinquefoil, blackthorn and cranberry, fringes a 17-acre lake. Tinker's Creek traverses the land, flowing through forested glacial morains, interspersed with numerous acres of swamp.

RED ROCK—THE EARL F. FARNAU NATURE RESERVE (Adams County, Ohio). Overlooking Ohio Brush Creek is a bold, coral-colored cliff of peebles dolomite. A relic prairie fringes the Red Rock promontory and abruptly gives way to oak-blueberry community. The surrounding forest has not been lumbered in 40 years. Located less than a mile from Buzzardroost Rock, the 18-acre tract will be managed by the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

GREEN MOUNTAIN PROJECT (Washington County, Vermont). See page 8.

MICHIGAN ISLAND (Ashland County, Wisconsin). See page 14.

CEDARBURG BEECH WOODS—Addition—(Ozaukee County, Wisconsin). Cedarburg Beech a 5-acre addition to the last good beech woods in the Milwaukee area, adjoins a floating bog. The Conservancy began its acquisition of the area in 1963. The Conservancy has since transferred 197 acres to the University of Wisconsin and, with the new addition, retains title to 67 acres. *Cedarburg Beech Woods is part of a 2,000-acre wilderness area.* It is one of the areas designated by the State Scientific Areas Preservation Council as part of the Scientific Areas system.

SCHMIDT'S MAPLE WOODS (Clark County, Wisconsin). Consisting of 40 acres the area is one of the few remaining mixed hardwood areas not materially influenced by man. Forest includes sugar maple, black maple, rock elm, slippery elm, American elm, ironwood, basswood, and hickory. The land is a gift of Mrs. Karl P. Schmidt.

Saving the Dusky

The dusky seaside sparrow has been on the endangered species list since 1966. A small, dark-colored bird, restricted to certain areas in Florida, the dusky can tolerate very little habitat alteration. It nests in coastal marsh grasses, preferring a combination of *Distichlis,* a short marsh grass, and *Spartina,* a taller species.

The dusky's troubles began with an increase in the human population of Brevard County of 370 percent between 1950 and 1960. Six years later, even the 1960 population level had doubled. The consequent pressures upon the land for all manner of "improvements" have brought the sparrow to the brink of extinction.

Fortunately for the dusky, Mr. Brian Sharp and Dr. Joseph Hickey, both of the University of Wisconsin, completed research on the bird in 1968, and discovered the Brevard County population. Dr. Hickey, former member of the Conservancy's Board of Governors, and Mr. Sharp conclude the study "Preservation of Dusky Seaside Sparrow Habitat Along the St. John's River" with:

"But [the dusky] possesses extremely good taste, if its surroundings and associates are any indication. There is an abundance, a richness, a spaciousness about the St. Johns. The endangered alligator lives here, and 10,000 ducks in the winter and every now and then a swallow-tailed kite. This savannah cannot be improved upon: its delights are an established fact, seemingly endless, and invaluable.

"To think of the dusky, therefore, is to think also in terms of its associations. And even in terms of human values. The towns of Titusville and Cocoa, especially, and even Floridians farther afield, *need* such a garden: their people are the wealthier for its existence, but will be unfortunate if it is lost. They presently have the opportunity to preserve its delights for their own, or to invade its sanctity, with machines, repetitive houses, and too many people. Far better for us to determine now upon a harmonious distribution of people and landscape, for the ultimate benefit of both, than to have to regret our aesthetic destitution later."

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is presently acquiring dusky seaside sparrow habitat in Brevard County, the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. The anticipated refuge will include more than 3,000 acres.

In October of this year the Conservancy received a plea for assistance from the Bureau. A key tract of sixty three acres, located within the proposed Refuge was available for immediate sale. The Nature Conservancy responded within 3 hours, securing the property before it could be sold for development. The Conservancy will hold the property until such time as the Bureau will have appropriated funds available.

VERMONT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Green Mountains of Vermont

THE GREEN MOUNTAINS ARE IN DANGER

The Green Mountain Profile Committee of The Nature Conservancy has been established to help implement probably the most ambitious land planning and land preservation program ever contemplated in a state not already ravaged by reckless development. The Green Mountain Profile Committee, working in affiliation with the Vermont Chapter, hopes to protect—through donation, acquisition, and easement, key areas in Vermont above the 2,500 foot level of elevation. There are 191,000 acres in Vermont's Green Mountains at this elevation, 84,000 acres of which are in public ownership. The Committee hopes to protect as much of the remaining 107,000 acres, as possible, as well as important areas at lower elevations. Further, through an extensive education program, the Committee will assist in the development and the implementation of a state-wide land use plan now required by Vermont law for the entire State.

As a first step, the Committee is preserving 6,400 acres in the Green Mountains through the purchase of 4,500 acres for subsequent conveyance to the State. Moreover, through its intermediary role the Committee will assist the acquisition by the State of the additional 1,900 acres.

On the 4,500-acre property, Mount Ethan Allen rises majestically to 3,688 feet. This area is adjacent to and divided by Camel's Hump and Monroe State Parks. This property will be conveyed to the State with deed restrictions limiting the uses of the land above 1,800 feet.

The smaller tract of 1,900 acres is in Stowe, Vermont, and adjacent to Mount Mansfield State Forest. Both areas are heavily wooded with stands of maple, birch and ash and clear mountain streams. The Committee has begun ambitiously to help preserve Vermont while it still resembles the pictures of quiet, snowy beauty represented on generations of New England calendars.

Vermont—the imagination conjures mountains, snowcapped in winter and lushly green in summer, quiet, rolling valleys, and quaint valley towns.

For the most part the image remains a true one. Vermont largely has been spared the ravaging development of high rise apartments, sprawling suburban housing and shopping centers that have engulfed much of the rest of the nation.

But the image is changing. Vermont is no longer inviolate. Greater numbers of people are turning to its Green Mountains and its valleys, seeking weekend living space and recreation. Translated

into the effect on the land, this migration means more construction, with housing developements and more ski trails in the mountains.

Deleterious use of the mountain wildlands, the Green Mountains, poses the most severe threat to the viability of Vermont's natural resources. The mountains are the state's most important recreational resource and provide great reservoirs of pure water for streams and ground water reserves. And, to scientists and students, the unique vegetation found in the highlands is important for classroom study and research.

Increasingly the mountains bristle with towers and buildings, are bulldozed for roads, and sprout new developments.

The resulting erosion would very likely render the water supply impure which would have a disastrous effect on the life dependent on clear streams and costly effects for municipalities directly dependent on ground water reservoirs. Just as obviously, scenic beauty would turn into scarred ugliness.

The work of Dr. Hubert Vogelmann, chairman of the Conservancy's Vermont Chapter, in studying the ecology of the mountains has uncovered still more discomforting information regarding misuse and overuse of higher elevations. His work, "Ecology of Mountain Lands in Vermont: Characteristics of Mountain Lands over 2,500 Feet," reveals the severe fragility of vegetational cover at this level. Basically, he points out that lands over 2,500 feet are more susceptible to erosion, to buildup of effluents in the soil, and, most importantly, that vegetational systems at this level do not easily recover. Once development has gone too far, the mountains might *never* recover.

But, Vermont, so far lucky to have been spared the Newarks, New Jerseys and Disneylands of contemporary America, is in no mood to suffer them now. The Vermont legislature has passed environmental legislation that is a landmark in this area. The legislation provides that Vermont land shall not be subject to any use detrimental to the public welfare and interest.

Under the law a state environmental board has been established to provide comprehensive land use and development guidelines, and nine district environmental commissions have been established with authority to approve or deny development permits in accordance with the board's guidelines.

The district commissions are directed to test applications against ten specific criteria, termed Vermont's ten conservation commandments. The first and eighth are of particular interest: 1) A development "will not result in undue water or air pollution." In making their evaluation, the commissioners are to consider "the elevation of land above sea level; the nature of the soils and subsoils and their ability to adequately support waste disposal; the slope of the land and its effect upon effluents; the availability of streams for the disposal of effluents; and the applicable health and water resources department regulations." And, 8) Developments "will not have any undue adverse effect on the scenic or natural beauty of the area, aesthetics, historic sites or rare and irreplaceable natural areas."

Also provided in the legislation is a provision prohibiting development (defined as improvements for commercial, industrial or residential use) above 2,500 feet without specific approval from the commissioners.

This unique legislation demonstrates an unusual sensitivity on the part of the legislature to ecological considerations and pays tribute in no small way, as well, to the research of Dr. Vogelmann.

Vermont, then, is in the most unusual of circumstances: A state with majestic scenic beauty and unpolluted streams that plans on keeping it that way. *(Continued p. 18)*

BOB BOURDON

Vermont Woodland Stream

Ford Foundation Challenges The Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy has earned a reputation as an organization that acts swiftly to secure important lands before they are lost forever to the bulldozer. It has been lauded for its unique and important contribution to American conservation in scores of public accounts.

Since its establishment in 1954 the Project Revolving Fund, formerly the Matching and Loan Fund, has been a primary instrument for the Conservancy's successful land acquisition effort. This fund enables the Conservancy to provide chapters and project committees ready money at lower interest rates than those available from commercial credit sources. Much of the Conservancy's accomplishment has been made possible by this Fund.

In recognition of the national significance of the Conservancy's program the Ford Foundation has offered a challenge grant of $600,000 to the Project Revolving Fund: for every four dollars the Conservancy can raise, the Ford Foundation will give one dollar. The challenge grant will be in effect three years. If the Conservancy is successful in matching the monies made available by the Ford Foundation, the Project Revolving Fund will be $3 million larger by December 1, 1973 or sooner, giving the Fund a total value of more than $4 million.

Dr. George R. Cooley, former member of the Board of Governors, has sparked the Conservancy's drive to meet the Ford challenge with a gift of $40,000. This represents the addition of $50,000 to the fund. Dr. Cooley presently serves as a member of the Finance Committee of the Board.

The concept of the Project Revolving Fund, simply, is that it revolve: As loans to worthwhile projects are repaid, the monies are again loaned out. Thus, with a comparatively small amount of capital, a large number of significant areas can be preserved. During the past five years, 75 different areas, were purchased using monies from the Project Revolving Fund.

However, monies in the fund are often totally committed, forcing the Conservancy to seek financing for important projects from commercial lines of credit, thereby adding greatly to the cost of projects. At the same time the price of land continues to rise, often dramatically.

Clearly, the greatest challenge the Conservancy faces today is to increase the amount of available monies in the Project Revolving Fund. Not to do so would be to severely inhibit the Conservancy's ability to save land, at a time when the need to do so is more critical than ever before, and, to severely hamper its versatility as well.

Further, The Nature Conservancy is the *only* national, private conservation organization that is equipped—having both the real estate and financial expertise and *total* dedication—to do the urgent and large job of acquiring in addition to larger threatened areas, the pocket wildernesses, bogs, swamps, and prairies that are vanishing from our countryside. In short, the smaller natural areas that benefit not so much the summer vacationer, but the area resident—the biology teacher seeking an outdoor classroom, the university seeking research and teaching facilities, the hiker seeking beauty and quiet, the amateur naturalist, the passerby.

With the Fund's increase of 300 percent, the Conservancy's land saving capacity will be greatly enhanced enabling more Connecticut marshes, Minnesota and Wisconsin prairies and woodland, Florida marshes and hammocks, California canyons and coast, Ohio bogs and swamps to be preserved. A sampling of areas purchased under the Project Revolving Fund, reveals the immense diversity of lands acquired and their respective importance:

A slight two acres in Hays County, Texas, called *Ezell's Cave*, preserves the only known habitat for the blind salamander.

Patagonia-Sonoita in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, comprising 309 acres and nourished by a

VERNA R. JOHNSTON

Northern California Coast Range Preserve was purchased using the Fund.

year-'round stream, is a paradise for bird watching. Patagonia-Sonoita is about as far north as southern species will venture in summer and about as far south as northern species will venture in winter. More than 216 species have been recorded.

Prairie Grouse Lands: Since 1965 the Illinois Chapter has been acquiring lands for the preservation of the declining prairie grouse, and has been involved to date in the preservation of 985 acres of prairie grouse habitat. In combination with the management program by the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Conservancy's acquisition program has retarded the bird's decline.

Agassiz Dunes in Polk and Norman Counties, Minnesota, consists of sand dunes formed about 10,000 years ago. The 417 acres have been studied for nearly 40 years by summer classes from the Itasca Park Biological Station.

Chiwaukee Prairie, Wisconsin is the best remaining example of a Lake Michigan shore low prairie and Wisconsin's largest. More than 300 plant species have been recorded on this botanically rich 39-acre area of wet to dry undisturbed prairie.

The Mianus River Gorge in Westchester County, New York, has been an on-going project of the Conservancy since 1954. The Conservancy's first project, the Mianus River Gorge now totals 259 acres of forest, unspoiled since Colonial times, which stretch along the banks of the Mianus River.

These areas and hundreds like them throughout the country form a network of natural areas the Conservancy has set aside as portions of a natural heritage—parts of the world as it was—before the imprint of man became so painfully apparent.

The Ford Foundation's challenge brings the Conservancy to the threshold, for the first time in its history, of the fulfillment of an important part of its long-range goals. With $4 million in its Project Revolving Fund the Conservancy could not only save thousands of dollars per project now spent in higher charges, but could provide the Conservancy with a versatility and economy it does not now enjoy. The Conservancy would be able to proceed with a phased plan of acquisition, enabling it to preserve complex life chains in broader areas, such as marshlands and watersheds, and to provide smaller ecosystems sufficient buffer to ensure their continued viability.

Never has the Conservancy had such an opportunity to improve Nature's chances against machines and concrete. With your help we can improve those odds.

We urge you to give your full support to the Project Revolving Fund Drive. Consider what your contribution will buy—in marshes, woodlands and prairies. Please give what you can. A special envelope is provided for your tax-deductible contribution. In forthcoming editions of the *News,* the progress of the Conservancy in reaching its $4 million goal, will be reported.

LIGNUMVITAE KEY

Unique Isle of Wild Beauty

Lignumvitae Key—of all the Florida Keys—remains a window to the remarkable blend of tropical and temperate species, both flora and fauna, endemic to the Keys. It is perhaps the *only* one. Researchers from Harvard, Cornell and the University of Miami have long recognized the island's unique scientific value and have long advocated its preservation.

Within Lignumvitae's 345 acres "are contained virtually every natural habitat found in the Florida Keys, including the best preserved native West Indian hardwood forest in the United States," writes Dr. Thomas Eisner, professor of biology at Cornell University. "Its interest," he continues, "is more than just regional, because most of the lowland hardwood forest on islands throughout the Caribbean region have been destroyed or badly damaged, and the Lignumvitae forest is therefore one of few remaining prime examples of its habitat in existence anywhere."

Dr. Eisner and Dr. Edward Wilson, professor of zoology at Harvard University, both members of the Conservancy's National Council, toured the Florida Keys on a research expedition. Their findings and impressions were published in an article, "Lignumvitae—Relict Island," in *Natural History*, October 1968.

In the article, Drs. Eisner and Wilson describe the factors menacing Lignumvitae as well as its biological and archaeological significance:

"To the north and south of Miami, from Juno Beach to Homestead, another of America's megalopolises is taking shape. Extending through nearly one-third of eastern Florida, this surge of men and machines is gobbling up the sandy pinelands and hardwood hammocks, filling the bay bottoms, ringing the scattered, small lakes with dwellings, and diminishing the once great Everglades to the status of a threatened nature reserve.

"Continuing farther south you will find the transformation process also going on along U.S. 1 through the Florida Keys. This is especially unfortunate because what is being lost in the Florida Keys is much more precious than the vanished habitats in the rest of south Florida—or those in almost all of the rest of the United States, for that matter. Here is a unique set of island-land ecosystems, composed of rich stands of West Indian hardwood forests that are inhabited by a curious and interesting mixture of animals—some of tropical, some of temperate origin.

"While doing research in the Florida Keys, we sought islands that still harbor patches of undisturbed hardwood . . . in order to assess more accurately history of animal life of the area . . . We were repeatedly disappointed. Although dense woodland still covers much of the upper and middle Keys . . . it is generally in poor condition. . . .

"However, one island we visited stands out as a remarkable exception to this destruction. This is Lignumvitae Key, appropriately named because of its several hundred lignumvitae trees (called tree of life by the Spanish), probably more than in all of the rest of the United States. This island . . . has been preserved—so far—by a series of private owners in what must be very close to its original state."

Also on the island are ruins of archeological significance. A Tequesta Indian burial mound on the island contains bones between 900 and 1,000 years old according to radiocarbon dating. The island was occupied intermittently by the Spanish, according to lore, headquarters of a "gentleman pirate."

This island, Lignumvitae Key, is home to no less than 65 species of trees and woody shrubs, "one of the richest concentrations to be found in North America," according to Drs. Wilson and Eisner. What may be the largest gumbo-limbo tree is here, as well as a very old population of *G. sanctum,* some of which are more than 1,000 years old.

Say the authors, "The animal life of Lignumvitae Key is also rich and, in our opinion, is representative of the primeval fauna of the hardwood hammocks. We have observed many species of native insects and spiders that are scarce elsewhere in the United States; even unknown as yet on the remainder of the Florida Keys. Also, tree snails of three genera, including *Liguus* (very scarce today) are abundant on Lignumvitae Key. The bird fauna . . . contains a large sample of typically Floridian species: bald eagles, West Indian bananaquits, white-crowned pigeons, ground dovers, and a variety of wading birds, including roseate spoonbills, white ibis, and great white herons. . . ."

Concluding their report of Lignumvitae Key with a plea that it be preserved, Drs. Eisner and Wilson remark, "To enter the forest on Lignumvitae Key is to step far into the past, and come as

THOMAS EISNER

Lignumvitae affords a protective haven to the threatened tree snail of the genus Liguus.

lose as we ever will to witnessing the Keys as they were before the coming of man . . . We can only hope that arrangements will be made . . . to permanently preserve this unique island in its unspoiled condition. It would be an irreparable loss if the ecological system of Lignumvitae Key is allowed to go to ruin—and with it the 'tree of life.' "

In October of 1970, The Nature Conservancy took the first step toward preserving Lignumvitae Key by agreeing to purchase the island and nearby Shell Key, an important marine resource area, for $1,950,000. The option to purchase the two endangered keys was secured with $20,000 and was obtained after almost a year of negotiations.

As funds were being sought both locally and nationally to support the drive to save the islands, Florida's State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, voted to provide $1,750,000 toward the purchase and bring the islands under the State's protection as a natural area. The state's decision was made with the provision that the Conservancy provide the remaining $200,000 needed to buy the Keys.

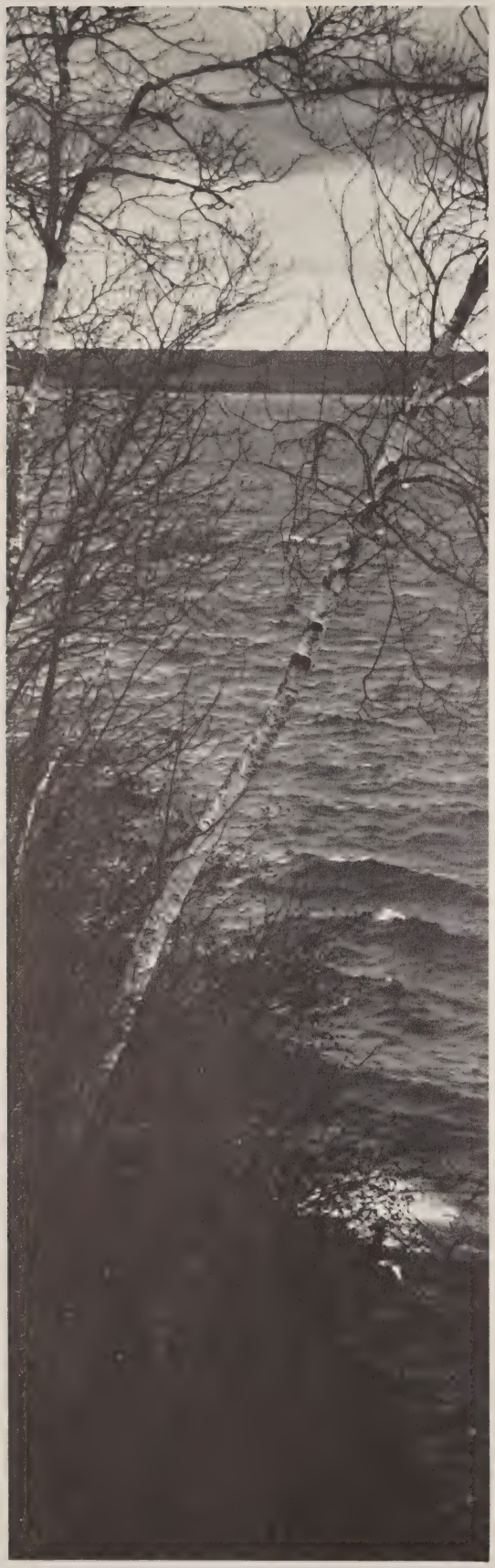
As this edition of the News *goes to the printers, only the need for an additional $24,000 stands between the Keys and safety. The alternative to preservation was to have been the implementation of the already existing plan for high-rise motel resort development.*

The lignumvitae tree's fragile flower.

THOMAS EISNER

Lignumvitae's coral shore.

THOMAS EISNER



JOINT EFFORT SAVES ISLAND

Clustered about the Bayfield, Wisconsin peninsula are 21 Apostle Islands whose preservation has long been a matter of concern to conservationists. Working together, the Izaak Walton League and the Conservancy have assured the preservation of a major portion of Michigan Island, ranking seventh in size. The League loaned the Conservancy $47,700 to purchase 1,450 acres of the 1,500-acre island. Funds came from the league directly and The Izaak Walton League Endowment, a separate non-profit corporation founded to acquire conservation lands.

The land, valued at $70,000, was purchased from Dr. and Mrs. Athelstan Spilhaus. Dr. Spilhaus, noted meteorologist and oceanographer, is retiring president and chairman of the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A leading member of many professional societies and advisor to a number of governmental bodies, Dr. Spilhaus is also inventor of the bathythermograph and the Spilhaus space clock.

Three of the islands are now in public ownership and, thanks to the joint League-Conservancy effort, endorsed by the Wisconsin chapter, a majority of a fourth can be securely tucked away. The land will be held for eventual transfer to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Michigan Island is heavily forested with northern hardwoods, including hemlock and white pine, and provides a haven for innumerable Canadian zone birds and mammals. The island would have been a prime site for development had it not been purchased by the Conservancy.

The first suggestion that the Apostle Islands might be worthy of preservation for public use was made in 1930. With Congressional passage of a bill to create the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in September, 1970, the preservation of 16 of the remaining 17 undeveloped islands seems assured as well.

Congressional action comes not a moment too soon. Until recently the Apostle Islands were inaccessible enough to make commercial development impracticable. But the expanding populations of seven large metropolitan centers within a radius of 250 miles made cottage-lot subdivision increasingly attractive.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NEWS IN BRIEF

ILLINOIS CHAPTER ORGANIZES SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

The Illinois Chapter organized an innovative and successful event recently to acquaint prominent local trust attorneys and bank trust officers with the Conservancy's program. A midday conference and luncheon was held in Chicago, hosted by the First National Bank of Chicago on behalf of The Nature Conservancy. Representatives of 35 of the leading Chicago law firms and 10 bank trust officers heard speeches by Illinois Chapter director, John Humke, and director of national operations, Patrick F. Noonan. At the function, initiated by Cyrus Mark, chairman of the Illinois Chapter, and Stuart Otis, former chairman of the Prairie Grouse Committee, Illinois Chapter and national Conservancy activities were outlined.

That increased awareness of the Conservancy's national and local accomplishments, as well as its organization and purpose on the part of the banking and legal community, is well advised, no one can doubt. Trust officers and lawyers, cognizant of the Conservancy's reliability and the value of its goals can suggest The Nature Conservancy as a possible recipient of devises, bequests, endowments and contributions. Frequently, too, the individuals themselves become active participants in the Conservancy's program.

DEVIL'S DEN RESEARCH PUBLISHED

Research carried out on the Lucius Pond Ordway Preserve—Devil's Den, in 1967 and 1968 has been published by The Nature Conservancy in a series of five papers. Each author discusses a specific aspect of the Den's various features: Dr. Carlos Carranza, geology; Mr. David Thompson, soils; Dr. Frank Egler and Dr. William Niering, vegetation; Mr. Philip Barske, wildlife; The Rev. Kenneth Kinner, archaeology. Publication of the papers was made possible by a grant from Miss Katharine Ordway, donor of the majority of Devil's Den.

The papers launch a publication series, "Contributions from The Nature Conservancy," which will outline surveys of important aspects of preserve physical, biological and cultural features. The new irregular publication series will be in addition to the Conservancy's Ecological Leaflet series.

In Memoriam

Cary W. Bok

Mr. Bok, a member of the Board of Governors, and chairman of the National Council, passed away at his home in Camden, Maine, on December 29, 1970.

A dedicated supporter and leader of the Conservancy for nearly a decade, Mr. Bok devoted much of his time and energy to the preservation of natural areas in Maine and throughout the nation.

His evidenced concern that future generations should know the natural land, leaves behind him a viable memorial in virgin woodlands, untrampled prairie and spray-dashed coast.

William Henry Browne

Willie Browne died December 14, 1970, as he lived, looking over the forest and marsh that had been his home all his eighty-one years.

His donation of this land, valued in excess of $1 million, all he had, to The Nature Conservancy in 1969, surprised and even shocked a world conditioned to making—not giving away—the legendary million. But the sanctity of the land itself and the creatures it supports remain Willie's lasting and living tribute. Willie is buried on the land he loved . . . a perpetual reminder of the legacy he left.

NEW POLICY MANUAL AVAILABLE

A revision of the Policy and Procedures Manual (Policy Bulletin No. 1) has been approved by the Chapter Committee and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and will be forwarded to all chapters. The manual outlines the Conservancy's goals and objectives and provides guidance and information on the procedures necessary to carry out its program. Primarily for the use of chapters and project committees, the manual gives detailed procedures for chapter organization, records and activities; outlines some of the legal and procedural steps necessary in a successful approach to saving land; and provides a brief description of the Conservancy's organizational structure. Copies are available upon request.

CONSERVANCY PRAISED IN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The recently-released, 326-page *First Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality*, lauds the Conservancy in the discussion of "Land Protection Through Private Purchases and Trusts."

States the Council, chaired by Russell Train, "The Nature Conservancy is the major land acquiring organization. . . . Since its founding in 1950, the Conservancy has grown from a loosely knit, meagerly financed, non-profit group to a large organization . . ." Further, the Council notes, "Many of the areas saved would have been lost to private development if The Nature Conservancy had not intervened."

The Council on Environmental Quality was established in 1970 by Executive Order. Copies of the report (in paper cover) are available for $1.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

NOTES

Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, member of the Conservancy's National Council, and Dr. William Niering, a governor of The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, are presently conducting research for the National Park Service of the principal wetland areas within the contiguous 48 states. Messrs. Goodwin and Niering are professors at Connecticut College.

The Eastern New York Chapter, in an effort to increase its contribution to conservation education, has written more than 200 high schools offering advice on the preservation of natural areas for schools.

The Long Island Chapter annually publishes a nature calendar illustrated by Long Island artists. This year's has proved so successful that a second printing may be necessary.

The Nature Conservancy is a participant in The National Panorama of Conservation Action, a traveling visual display of the activities and goals of numerous conservation organizations. The exhibition is touring shopping malls across the nation, informing citizens of the positive and concrete action they may take to improve their environment.

CORRESPONDENCE

If only one of the Florida Keys could be saved intact Lignumvitae would be that one. It is about the best display of the fabulous Keys flora and fauna and its unusual height makes it hurricane-proof, an important feature.

The Keys and the Everglades together with the Gulf Stream were my reason for making my home there. It was forty years ago when I first went to Miami (and Key West) and then into those areas. No place in USA was as truly "wild" and that was why I made my home in South Florida.

I've been ashore on Lignumvitae and fished around it entirely as I have, most of those strange, enchanted isles. They are unique to the planet. They are so beautiful and mother lodes of plants and trees and creatures of which many are indigenous and rare; there so if that pixillated islet can be salvaged, it must be.

I see it now, a conspicuous dome in a Bay of Florida and Keys dawn, the other keys mere soft pencil lines in the distance across water that is all the blues in that part of the spectrum, all the greens, some violet-purples and every hue in a pearl, besides. As the sun's disc shows the horizon haze is the tint of powdered coral. A croc swims past among hurrying shrimp, tide-travellers, and not far off in this near-two-dimensional wonderland the dorsal of a permit meanders with some purpose indecipherable by man.

The Florida Keys were and this one apparently is, one of the earth's loveliest, most fecund and bizarre features. But I have not visited them much, of late. By day they ring with the parasitical power tools of that absolute predator and super-polluter, us.

By night where we used to listen to the thrilling chant of panthers, the sound is of trucks and cars and TV sets. The spectacular night sky of South Florida is now stained along the Keys by boozy, off-scarlet neon lights. Since Lignumvitae has not yet foundered in the din and shiny squalor that has inundated most of the most exquisite holdings of Americans, any contribution to its salvage would be a means to that one form of immortality I think we have claim on: posterity and its heritage from us.

For if we do not leave them ample evidence of the nature of Nature, our heirs will one day read about what is no more—and conclude that what made a few of us rich, and many, comfortable, left them poor, indeed, a city-dump

habitat on the shores of a sewer-sea. If we deplore cannibalism and those who practice it, think of how much more savage and immoral we shall seem to them!

There is no way for me to express my wrathful amaze at petty people and their titan crimes of this sort. And to know, as I know, that Nature is on the verge of retaliation, violent and varied and perhaps fatal to the species, is not any sort of satisfaction. We know better, some of us. We may be able to teach the rest how to avoid being the only self-scrapped species since life arose here. We are trying, these ways.

All the Keys reachable by car have become a devastated area, to me. There is no elegance in the most costly real estate development if it stands where millions of years of evolution produced what bulldozers slew. Who do we think we are? And if we are to be known "by our acts" these must change or there soon will be nobody to know, at all.

Philip Wylie*
Rushford, New York

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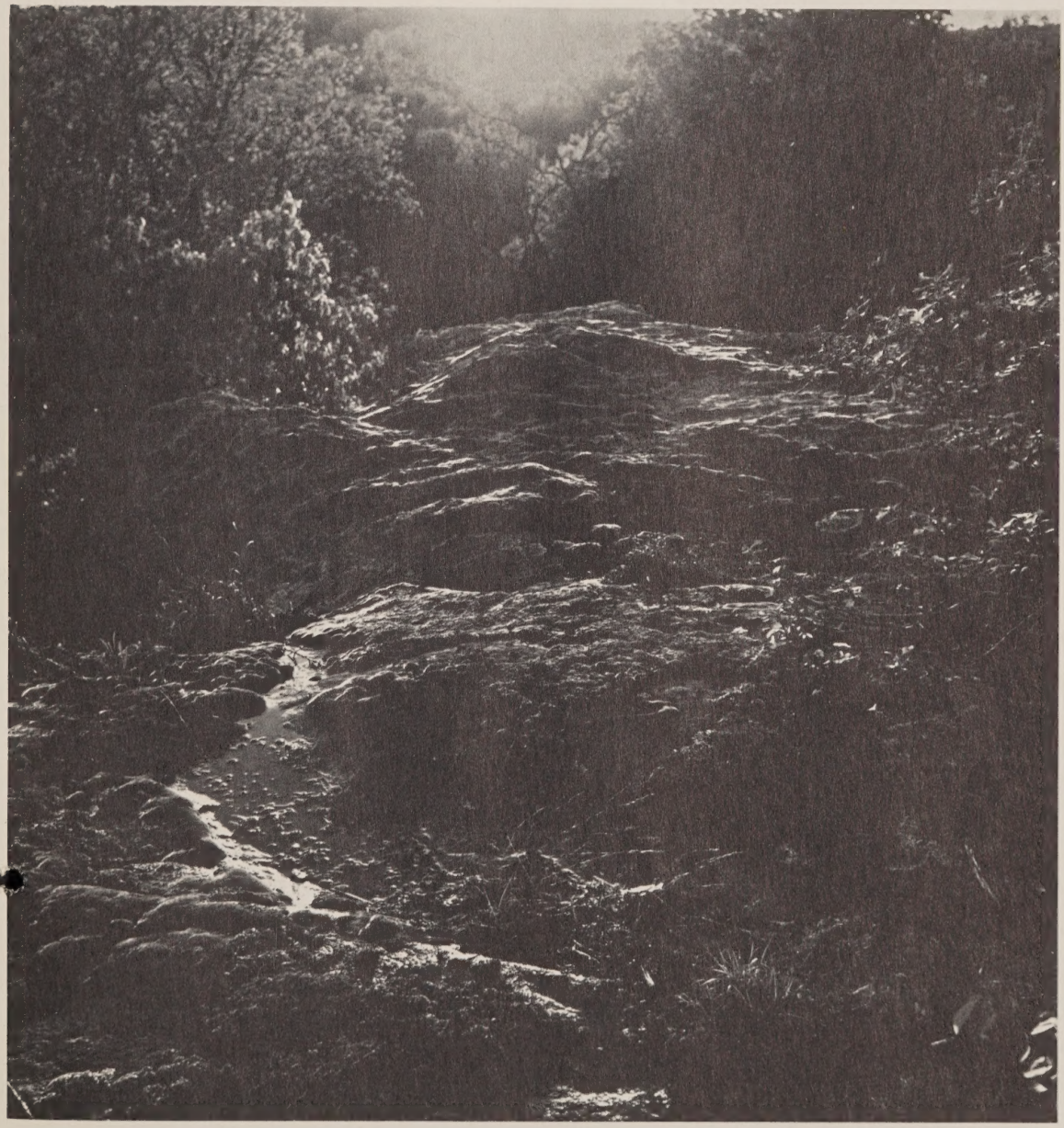
* *EDITORS NOTE:* Philip Wylie is the author of many works including *A Generation of Vipers, Opus 21* and the soon-to-be published, *Sons and Daughters of Mom.*



LELAND PAYTON

Lichen Glade, Missouri is a current project of the Missouri Chapter.

BOOKS

CONGRESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, edited by Richard A. Cooley and Geoffrey Wandesforde-Smith. *University of Washington Press (1970) $8.95; 277 pp.*

Congress is not yet ready to face the environmental crisis. This is the overwhelming conclusion of the authors of the case studies comprising this book, despite the fact that the congressional "cases" examined are those which most would describe as successful—The Wilderness Act, The Scenic and Wild Rivers Act, The Highway Beautification Act.

The Congressional obstacles are formidable; the structural inertia of the committee system allows legislation to be delayed indefinitely, often while land to be saved becomes a steel mill or a housing development; the historic ad hoc approach to problems precludes long range planning; finally, a majority of the members of Congress do not doubt that economic growth and development are inherent goods to be encouraged. This pro-business belief of Congressmen is considered by the authors to be conservation's greatest obstacle. It is, after all, the indelible imprint made by 200 years of American expansion and growth—the Great American Experiment is, irreparably, the "American consciousness."

Say the authors, students at the University of Washington, only the radical restructuring of Congress will provide the vehicle for meaningful environmental solutions.

E. Hulse
(TNC Staff)

ELEVENTH HOUR: A Hard Look At Conservation by Alexander B. Adams. *G. P. Putnam's Sons (1970) $7.95; 378 pp.*

In this work Mr. Adams has chronicled—city by city—state by state—agency by agency—the problems caused by our inability to understand the disparate aspects, or to appreciate the immensity, of the environmental solutions we desperately need to exercise as a nation if we are to retard the reckless waste of land and people we presently suffer.

He also criticizes conservationists for their frailties. He emphasizes the need for practical idealists who have the ability to choose the right targets, who do not dissipate their energies competing with each other and who are capable of clear and analytical thought.

As former chairman of the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy, board member and volunteer president, Mr. Adams is quite familiar with The Nature Conservancy, described in detail and often used as an example of positive action.

This is an excellent book—readable, clear, well-documented and thought-provoking.

NAMELESS VALLEYS, SHINING MOUNTAINS by John P. Milton. *Walker & Company (1969) $7.50; 195 pp.*

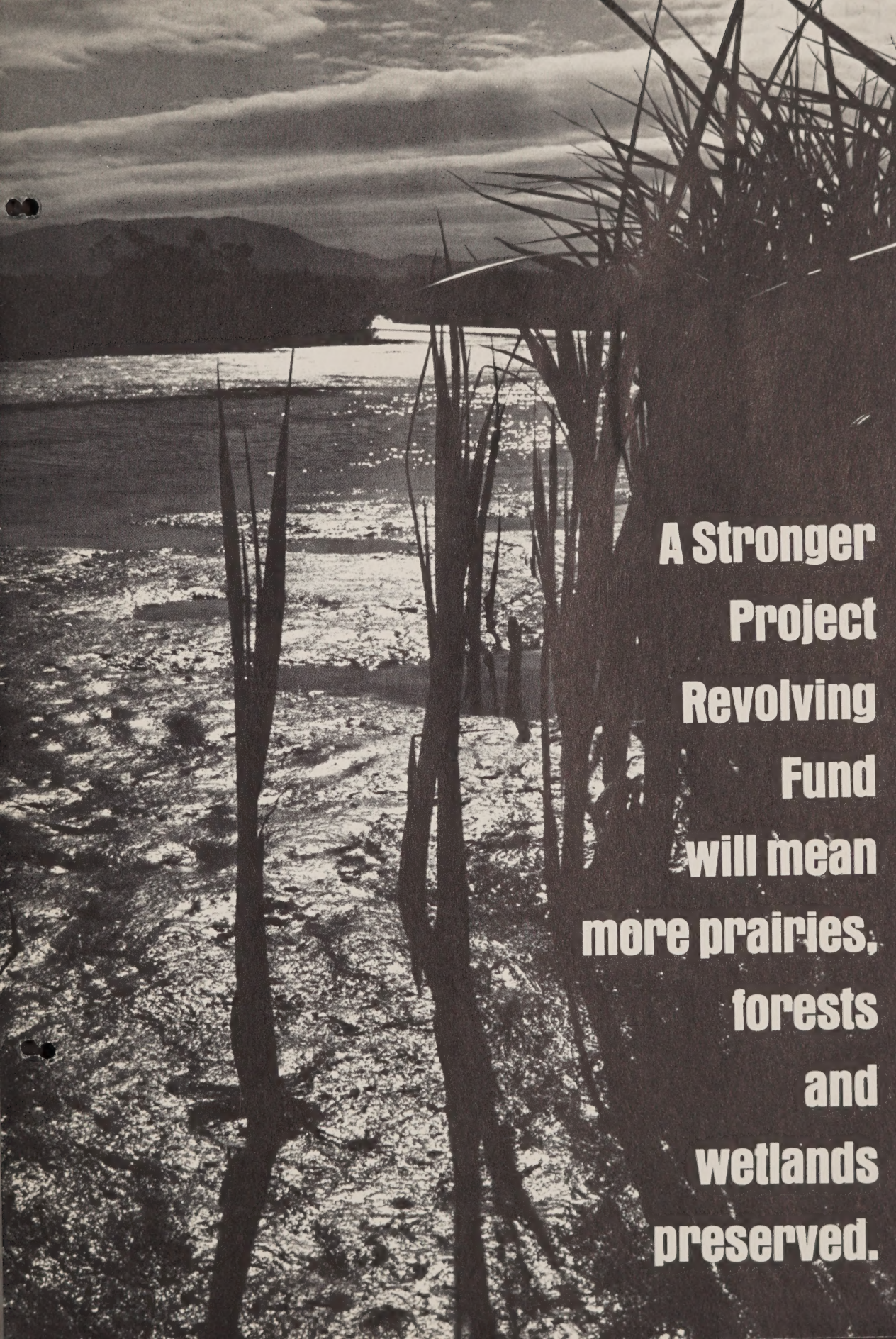
Nameless Valleys, Shining Mountains is a character sketch of a mountain range: its jagged, jutting, soaring peaks, its valleys, the beauty and danger, the vastness. It is more—it is a man's encounter with wilderness, an uncivilized land where nature lies totally undisturbed. Finally, it is a cry for help to each of us who appreciates valleys that have not yet been labeled, rivers which carry pure water, a place where all that is can live, exist unthreatened, secure in their remoteness. The plea is to save this last frontier of America now precariously perched on the periphery of invasion and exploitation. The author, Mr. John Milton, is an ecologist and presently is Deputy Director of the Division of International Programs of the Conservation Foundation. Between July 22 and August 29, 1967, he and two companions walked from the southern foothills of the Brooks Range, across the mountains of the Arctic Divide, and down across the open tundra to Barter Island on the Arctic Ocean.

M. A. Sennett
(TNC Member)

Vermont's Green Mountains *(Continued)*

But, important and far-sighted as the legislature's action is, much more remains to be done. The state environmental board will need help in developing wise and comprehensive land-use guidelines. The state will need assistance in raising funds to buy more parklands. Fully adequate protection must be given the higher elevations of the Green Mountains whether through direct acquisition or easement.

The Green Mountain Profile Committee, led by Dr. Vogelmann, intends to do all this and more. It has a strong start with its first acquisition. Currently the Committee is undertaking an educational program aimed not only at citizens but also primary and secondary schools to show why more intelligent use of mountain lands is needed. Moreover a national campaign is underway to seek needed funds. Contributions should be sent to The Nature Conservancy, earmarked for the Green Mountain Profile Committee. Donors should specify whether they wish their contributions to be used for educational purposes or for land acquisition.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